

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A method of treating or preventing rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, or fibromyalgia in a patient in need of such treatment or prevention, comprising administering to said patient a steroid selected from the group consisting of Δ^5 -androstene- 3β -ol-7,17-dione and 3β esters thereof, wherein said administration results in amelioration or prevention of one or more symptoms of arthritis.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said steroid is Δ^5 -androstene- 3β -acetoxy-ol-7,17-dione.
3. (previously presented) The method of either one of claims 1 and 2 wherein said patient is human.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is afflicted with osteoarthritis.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is afflicted with fibromyalgia.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is afflicted with arthritis-related tissue inflammation.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is diagnosed with osteoarthritis.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is diagnosed with fibromyalgia.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is diagnosed with arthritis-related tissue inflammation.

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

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19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The method of either one of claims 1 and 2, wherein said one or more symptoms of arthritis are selected from the group consisting of arthritis-related tissue inflammation, joint pain, joint stiffness, inability to move a joint normally, nodules, and swelling.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said patient is afflicted with osteoarthritis.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said patient is afflicted with fibromyalgia.
25. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said patient is afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis.
26. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said arthritis-related tissue inflammation is selected from the group consisting of connective tissue inflammation, joint inflammation, and synovium inflammation.
27. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said patient is diagnosed with osteoarthritis.
28. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said patient is diagnosed with fibromyalgia.
29. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said patient is diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.
30. (canceled)
31. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said steroid is administered by the route selected from the group consisting of intravenous injection, mucosal administration, oral consumption, ocular administration, subcutaneous injection, and transdermal administration.
32. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein said mucosal administration includes routes selected from the group consisting of buccal, endotracheal, inhalation, nasal, pharyngeal, rectal, sublingual and vaginal.
33. (canceled)

34. (canceled)

35. (canceled)

36. (canceled)

37. (canceled)

38. (canceled)